

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently amended) A switch system, comprising:

a switch unit that switches data through said switch system;

a scheduler that receives requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch system and selectively concurrently permits one or more of the requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch unit; and

a flow control manager that receives flow control information and alters the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch unit are permitted by said scheduler based on the ~~flow control information~~ fullness of the receive-side or transmit-side queues,

wherein said switch system supports a plurality of ports,

wherein said switch system further comprises at least one receive-side queue and at least one transmit-side queue for each of the ports,

wherein said flow control manager receives the ~~flow control~~ fullness information associated with said ~~receive-side~~ transmit-side queue and subsequently alters the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch unit to said ~~receive-side~~ transmit-side queue are permitted by said scheduler, and

wherein said flow control manager does not alter the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data ~~through~~ into said switch unit to said ~~receive-side~~ transmit-side queue are permitted by said scheduler, and

wherein said flow control manager will alter the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch system to said transmit-side queue until the said transmit-side queue is full, and

wherein said flow control manager will then alter the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data into said switch unit to said receive-side queue until said transmit-side queue empties, and

wherein said flow control manager will suspend requests to transfer blocks of data into said switch unit to said receive-side queue until the said transmit-side queue empties sufficiently.

24. (Original) A switch system as recited in claim 23, wherein said switch system supports a plurality of ports, and

wherein the flow control information is derived from congestion information that indicates presence or absence of congestion at one or more of the ports.

25. (Previously Presented) A switch system as recited in claim 23, wherein the flow control information is dependent upon an amount or rate of congestion at said receive-side and transmit-side queues.

26. (Original) A switch system as recited in claim 25, wherein said switch system further comprises:

a traffic manager operatively connected to both said receive-side and transmit-side queues, said traffic manager monitors said receive-side and transmit-side queues and produces the flow control information that is supplied to said flow control manager.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Previously Presented) A switch system, comprising:

a switch unit that switches data through said switch system; and

a scheduler that receives requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch system, receives flow or traffic information, and selectively concurrently permits one or more of the requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch unit in accordance with the flow or traffic information such that the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch unit are altered dependent on the flow or traffic information,

wherein said switch system supports a plurality of ports,

wherein said switch system further comprises at least one receive-side queue and at least one transmit-side queue for each of the ports,

wherein said scheduler receives the flow or traffic information associated with said transmit-side queue and subsequently alters the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch unit to said transmit-side queue are permitted by said scheduler, and

wherein said scheduler does not alter the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data through said switch unit to said transmit-side queue are permitted by said scheduler.

30. (Previously Presented) A switch system as recited in claim 29,

wherein said switch unit has a plurality of ports, and wherein said scheduler alters the amount of or rate that requests to transfer block of data through said switch unit to said transmit-side queue are permitted on a per port basis.

31. (Previously Presented) A switch system as recited in claim 30, wherein the flow or traffic information includes a flow reduction value.

32. (Previously Presented) A switch system as recited in claim 23,

wherein said switch unit has a plurality of ports, and wherein said scheduler alters the amount of or rate that requests to transfer block of data through said switch unit to said transmit-side queue are permitted on a per port basis.

33. (Previously presented) A switch system as recited in claim 32,  
wherein the flow or traffic information includes a flow reduction value.
34. (New) A switch system as recited in claim 29,  
wherein said switch unit has a plurality of ports, and wherein said scheduler  
alters the amount of or rate that requests to transfer blocks of data into said switch unit  
to said receive-side queue are permitted on a per port basis.
35. (New) A switch system as recited in claim 34,  
wherein the flow or traffic information includes a flow reduction value.